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Lawrence, John Elmore (1954 – 1964)

Pastors of First Baptist Shelby

11-10-1970

Newspaper - The Shelby Daily Star - Nov. 10, 1970 - John Lawrence

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Baptists Are Told Renewal To Win

GREENSBORO (AP) — North Carolina Baptists were told today that although the church faces "division, dissension and disunity," renewal will triumph.

The church is not "on its deathbed" nor is it "a sinking ship about to lose its identity in humanitarianism, social service programs and political crusades," said the Rev. A. Douglas Aldrich of Gastonia.

"The church is wherever a group of persons have responded to God's call in Christ and are seeking to live their total life under the Lordship of Christ in the world," he said.

Aldrich made the comments in an address for the annual North Carolina State Baptist Convention.

The convention president, the Rev. John E. Lawrence of Raleigh, had told the gathering's opening session Monday night that the modern church "is too much turned in upon itself."

He said the church is "too much preoccupied with building its own image, and too much concerned with maintaining itself."

Lawrence said he agreed with the contention that "it is a sin for churchmen to become so

absorbed in maintaining the status quo that we refuse to become involved in eradicating the ugly sores which are crippling mankind and justify ourselves in our feelings by saying we are too busy."

Lawrence said most churches are divided along liberal and conservative lines.

"Very often," he said, "this division leads to name calling, labeling and unbrotherly conduct which is foreign to the spirit of Christ our Lord."

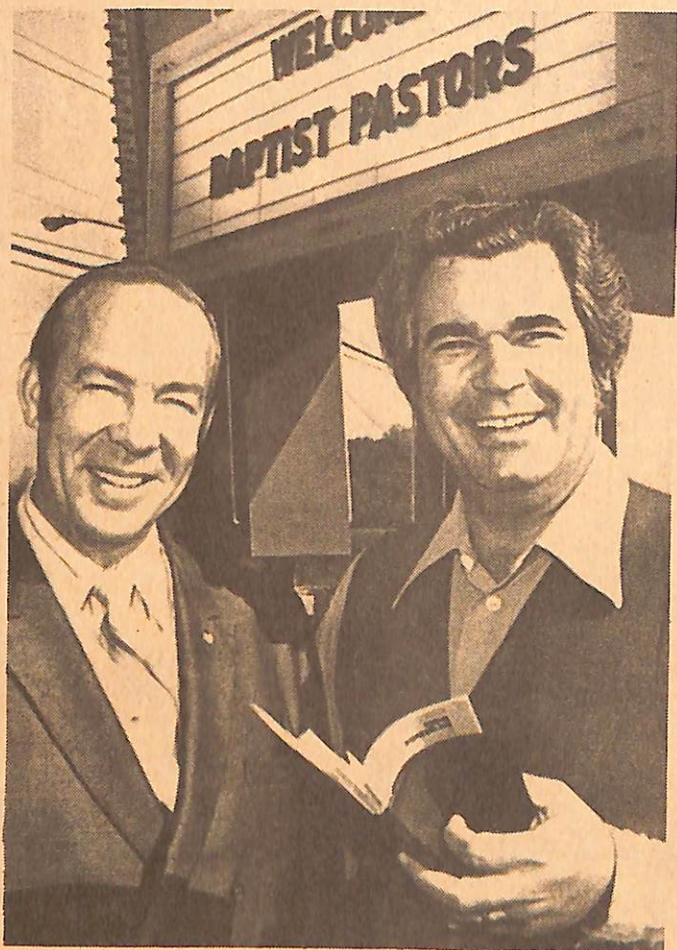
Two Persons Identified

DURHAM (AP) — Two persons who died in the crash of their plane into nearby Lake Michie have been identified as Doyle Ricketts, 37, of Kinston, and Miss Winnie R. Williams, 20 of Durham.

The bodies were recovered Monday, a day after the crash.

Miss Williams was employed at the Duke University Medical Center.

Ricketts is believed to have been an employe of Rest Lawn Memorial Gardens in Wake County.



SPEAKER FOR BAPTISTS — The Rev. Bob Harrington (right) whose unorthodox ministry in New Orleans has brought him the title of Chaplain of Bourbon Street, talks with the Rev. Jack Wilder of Greensboro Monday before addressing the Pastors Conference which preceded opening of the N. C. Baptist State Convention. (AP Wirephoto)